Listing of the Claims:

1. (previously amended) A device comprising a message passing service for providing communication services between a client application and at least one target application, wherein the message passing service comprises:

application blocking logic operably coupled to block and unblock the client application for supporting synchronous communication services for the client application;

asynchronous signaling logic operably coupled to notify the client application of asynchronous events for supporting asynchronous communication services for the client application; and

session control logic operably coupled to open a message passing session over a conduit to allow communications with any of a plurality of target applications that have an open message passing session on the conduit and operably coupled to close the message passing service session.

2. (previously amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the message passing service further comprises:

synchronous message passing logic operably coupled to provide synchronous communication services for the client application over the message passing service session using the application blocking logic; and

asynchronous message passing logic operably coupled to provide asynchronous communication services for the client application over the message passing service session using the asynchronous signaling logic.

3. (previously amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the synchronous message passing logic comprises synchronous message sending logic operably coupled to block the client application using the application blocking logic upon sending a synchronous message to one of the at least one target applications over the message passing service session and unblock the client application using the application blocking logic upon receiving a

confirmation from the one of the at least one target applications over the message passing service session.

4. (original) The device of claim 2, wherein the synchronous message passing logic comprises synchronous message receiving logic operably coupled to block the client application using the application blocking logic if a synchronous message is unavailable for the client application.

5. (previously amended) The device of claim 4, wherein the synchronous message receiving logic is operably coupled to unblock the client application using the application blocking logic upon receiving a synchronous message for the client application from one of the at least one target applications over the message passing service session.

6. (previously amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the asynchronous message passing logic comprises asynchronous message sending logic operably coupled to send an asynchronous message to one of the at least one target applications and notify the client application via the asynchronous signaling logic upon receiving a confirmation from of the at least one the one target application over the message passing service session.

7. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the asynchronous signaling logic comprises a "callback" routine that is provided to the message passing service by the client application.

8. (original) The device of claim 7, wherein the asynchronous signaling logic is operably coupled to invoke the "callback" routine when an asynchronous event is available for the client application.

9. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said device is a storage processor for operation in a storage unit.

10. (previously amended) A program product comprising a computer readable medium having embodied therein a message passing service program for providing communication services between a client application and ~~a~~ remote target applications, the message passing service program comprising:

application blocking logic programmed to block and unblock the client application for supporting synchronous communication services for the client application;

asynchronous signaling logic programmed to notify the client application of asynchronous events for supporting asynchronous communication services for the client application~~.~~; and

session control logic operably coupled to open a message passing session over a conduit to allow communications with any of a plurality of target applications that have an open message passing session on the conduit and operably coupled to close the message passing service session.

11. (previously amended) The program product of claim 10, wherein the message passing service program further comprises:

synchronous message passing logic programmed to provide synchronous communication services for the client application over the message passing service session using the application blocking logic; and

asynchronous message passing logic programmed to provide asynchronous communication services for the client application over the message passing service session using the asynchronous signaling logic.

12. (previously amended) The program product of claim 11, wherein the synchronous message passing logic comprises synchronous message sending logic programmed to block the client application using the application blocking logic upon sending a synchronous message to one of the target applications over the message passing service session and unblock the client application using the application blocking logic upon receiving a

confirmation from the one of the target applications over the message passing service session.

13. (original) The program product of claim 11, wherein the synchronous message passing logic comprises synchronous message receiving logic programmed to block the client application using the application blocking logic if a synchronous message is unavailable for the client application.

14. (previously amended) The program product of claim 13, wherein the synchronous message receiving logic is programmed to unblock the client application using the application blocking logic upon receiving a synchronous message for the client application from one of the target applications over the message passing service session.

15. (previously amended) The program product of claim 11, wherein the asynchronous message passing logic comprises asynchronous message sending logic programmed to send an asynchronous message to a target application and notify the client application via the asynchronous signaling logic upon receiving a confirmation from the target application over the message passing service session.

16. (original) The program product of claim 10, wherein the asynchronous signaling logic comprises a "callback" routine that is provided to the message passing service program by the client application.

17. (original) The program product of claim 16, wherein the asynchronous signaling logic is programmed to invoke the "callback" routine when an asynchronous event is available for the client application.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (previously amended) In a computer system having a plurality of interconnected processors, a message passing method for providing asynchronous communication services between a client application running on one processor and a first target application running on another processor, the message passing method comprising:

opening a session over an existing communication link between the client application and any of a plurality of target applications that have a open message passing session on the communication link;

receiving a request from the client application for sending an asynchronous message to the first target application;

sending the asynchronous message to the first target application over the session;

receiving a confirmation from the first target application over the session; and

notifying the client application using an asynchronous signaling mechanism.

23. (original) The message passing method of claim 22, wherein the asynchronous signaling mechanism comprises a "callback" routine provided by the client application.

24. (original) The message passing method of claim 23, wherein notifying the client application comprises invoking the "callback" routine.

25. (previously amended) The message passing method of claim 22, further comprising:

receiving an asynchronous message from the first target application; and

notifying the client application using the asynchronous signaling mechanism.

26. (original) The message passing method of claim 22, further comprising:

closing the session; and

notifying the client application using the asynchronous signaling mechanism.

27. (canceled)